TWO

DECLARATIONS

FROM

The TOWN and GARRISON

OF

Portſmouth:

The one, from Colonel *Morley*, and divers Members of the late *Parliament*: Publiſhed at the *MARKET-PLACE.*

The other, By many Hundreds of the Inhabitants: With their *Proteſtation* and *Reſolution*, And a Letter ſent to the Gentry in the Weſtern Parts.

Alſo, the ſeizing of the *Ruby* Frigat and divers other ſhips in the Harbour; the coming in of the Sea-men, and the number engaging. With a *Declaration* of Major Generall *BROWN.*

London, Printed for *WILLIAM JOHNSON* 1659.

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MAY 28 1913
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ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

A DECLARATION OF Divers Members of *Parliament*, IN THE West of *England*, &c.

SIR,

HAving ſo ſeaſonable an Opportunity, to expedite unto you, the great Tranſactions in theſe parts, I could not omit the communicating thereof, it being of ſo general and publike concernment; eſpecially, ſeeing that the Scene is again changed in theſe parts, and *Portſmouth* made the *Aſpect* of our Weſtern Climate. For, it is very certain, that many of the late Members of *Parliament*, have had frequent Meetings in many places up and down the Countreyes, both with the Gentry and others; and have preſented ſeveral Garriſons with the Tranſlate of Letters; amongſt whom, col. *Whetham* (Governor of *Portſmouth*) ſeems to center in the ſame current, and hath granted free acceſs into the Town, treating

treating the Members with great prudency and friendship; and hath had several Conferences with them, about the securing of the Town, and declaring for the Parliament: Their Commutations tending to an Interruption of the Armies proceedings. As manifestly appears by a *Remonstrance* or *Declaration* published at *Portsmouth*: Wherein they desire a mutual Concurrence, for setting the peace of these distracted Nations; for restoring the Parliament to their former freedom being the peoples indubitable and undoubted Birthright; and for the asserting of the peoples priviledges, and maintaining of Magistracy and Ministers.

This being published at the Market place, many there were that protested against it, and declared their Resolutions to adhere to the General Council of Officers, and to stand by the Army in their present proceedings, accounting their Undertakings equally dear with their Lives and Fortunes. But these Resolutions soon introduced a confinement to many persons; amongst whom, Captain *Smith*, Captain *Peacock*, Cap. *Brown*, and about six of the Townsmen were secured, which hath caused great distractions in the town, the Inhabitants being very much divided.

But Colonel *Whetham* the Governour is very active, and useth all possible means for the satisfying and making up of all Interests to the discontented parties; and hath also secured the ships in the Harbour, which are said to be fifteen, *viz.* The *Ruby*, the *Diamond*, the *Saphire*, the *Pelican*, the *Dragon*, and 10 other Vessels.

The Seamen (in most of them) were paid off, before this unexpected Change in the Town, having received many thousands of pounds out of the Exchequer at Westminster for discharge of their late service, and to dismiss them at present: But this Opportunity intervening, and falling out in such an exigency and juncture of time, about five hundred Mariners (we hear) have taken up arms, and are now employed as formerly. Besides, if we may credit the general Report, that descends from the high-flown Notions of the Wings of Fame, they are said to be seven hundred Land men, and sevenscore Horse, who are sufficient

cient to guard the Town at present. It is rumour'd, that many of the Gentry have been assisting unseen in provisions, and that some are gone in with Horse and Arms: But Major *Cadwell* having notice thereof, immediately advanced with his own Troop, and two others, towards *Petersfield*; to whose assistance some few withdrew from *Farnham*, and those parts, with a Resolution to block up the Garrison, if they can; and to obviate the Design of others who shall endeavour an assistance, or concurrence.

Col. *Morley*, and the rest of the Members of the Old Parliament, having consulted the publick affairs in general, and settled that Garrison, dispatched (as we hear) sundry Letters to the Governours of several Castles and Garrisons, inciting them to a return of their former Duty, and to alienate their affections from the Army. But how it is resented, the Relations are various, and the several Reports as dubious: for some report the Isle and Castle of *Portland* to be in safe hands, and that *Cowes* and *Hurst* Castle in the Isle of *Wight* have undergone some *Tamperings*: as also *Carisbrook* Castle: What further shall accrue, upon these National Transactions, we shall endeavour to make obvious, by our next: Humbly imploring, that the signal manifestations of Gods most gracious presence may enlighten the Sons of men in these dark and gloomy Times, and to work our deliverance from the inevitable ruine and mischiefs, which are now aggravated by our manifold Divisions.

Chichester, Decemb. 9. 1659.

Upon the arrive of this suddain change and alteration, in so considerable a Garrison as *Portsmouth*, It was ordered, That a considerable Body of Horse and Foot should be forthwith sent down into the Western parts, to reduce that Garrison, or block it up: and accordingly the Lord *Disbrow* was made choice of, as Commander in chief for that Expedition, who advanced with several Troops of Horse from Westminster, and on Tuesday Night last Colonel *Hewsons* Regiment of Foot began their

march

march from the City of *London*, and five Companies of Colonel *Gibbons* Regiment from the Borough of *Southwark*, who were met on Friday last above twenty miles on their way towards *Portsmouth*, the Horse being in the Van, who are somewhat impeded in their march, by the present season, and inclemency of the weather. Notwithstanding, willing they are to embrace all timely Opportunities, for the obviating all dangerous and pernitious Designs and Enterprises, that may any wayes prove obnoxious and destructive to the publike peace and welfare of these Nations: In order whereunto, all possible care is taken, for the way laying, stopping, and guarding the several Avenues and Passes, porting and leading to the Town, that so the reducing of it may prove the more facile, and the Work expedited, which otherwise may introduce various Contingencies & Mutations, the Spirits of the people being exceeding inclinable thereunto: occasioned by the deplorable Revolutions, and a general decay of Trade, as doth exceed the greatest of presidents in former times.

By these suddain and unexpected Commotions, a translate of some Forces are expected from the Northern parts: and 'tis said, that Three Regiments of Horse and Dragoons are already upon their march. From whence, it is affirmed, That the Lord *Lamberts* Infantry consists of above seven thousand Foot, and that he hath a very considerable Body of Horse.

General *Monck* hath sent two Officers to *Newcastle*, to add to his other three Commissioners, for re-entring upon some further Proposals as yet untreated of. Colonel *Zankey* had a friendly Reception from General *Monck*, upon his presenting of the Letter from the Counncil of Officers of the Northern Army, in this present Expedition. And it is the expectations of many, that there will be a mutual Concurtence, and happy Accommodation.

As touching the landing of Major General *Brown* in the Western parts, it seems somewhat airy: for the Letters from *Holland* import, That he hath been resident at *Amsterdam* for many Weeks; and that it was his daily work to confer with the

the *English* Merchants, and others, about the grand affairs in *England*; Declaring, The inevitable Ruine and Desolation depending these ensuing, but now sadly divided and distracted Nations; if not timely prevented, by a removal of the direful Judgments near at hand, and restoring of the people to their ancient Rights, Charters, and Freedoms; and the granting them their Privileges and Birth-Rights, in their future Representatives.

By the last Express from *Portsmouth*, on Saturday last, it is certified, that a party of horse came as far as *Gosport*, and faced the Town, but afterwards wheeled off at a further distance. Seven Troops are also marched from *Petersfield* towards *Chichester*, and some Commotions are feared about *Exeter*. The Foot that marched from *London* was met on Saturday last between Lockhup and Petersfield, and intended to arrive before Portsmouth the 14th instant. Which place is said to be supplyed with great store of provision and ammunition, having above threescore pieces of Ordnance.

FINIS.